

Warblington
Urban District Council.

Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of
Health

For the Year 1920

To the . . .

Warblington Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Report for 1920.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Population : Census 1911 ... 3771
 ,, for Births and Deaths 4039

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

The Civil Parish of Warblington extends over 3254 acres, and includes the Ecclesiastical Parishes of Warblington and Emsworth, and a part of Rowlands Castle.

The village of Warblington consists of a few houses clustered about the cross roads on the main road from Havant to Chichester, where one way curving round by the village pond leads northwards towards East Leigh, and another, known as Pook Lane, goes south to Langstone Harbour. Most of the southern part of the parish is well-watered pasture land.

Of the whole parish 663 acres are arable land, about 808 acres pasture land, and 425 acres are covered with wood (Board of Agriculture Returns, 1905). The soil by the church is chalky, but further north the subsoil is clay, the surface being a rich loam. The whole of the northern part of the parish is thickly wooded.

Emsworth, situated at the head of the harbour, to the east of Warblington, where the River Ems flows into the sea, is a small town of some importance as a distributing centre for timber, flour, and oysters.

The roads in the district are generally good, and the whole area is flat, rising slightly towards the north. With the exception of business and professional residences, most of the houses are occupied by retired Service (Army and Navy) officials, a few by private residents, and in the outlying parts by those who find employment in agriculture. No particular occupation has any influence on public health.

Vital Statistics.

<i>Births</i> ...	41 males ; 49 females.
1919 ...	23 .. 25 ..
Legitimate	39 .. 49 ..
Illegitimate	2 .. — ..
1919 :	
Legitimate	20 .. 22 ..
Illegitimate	1 .. 3 ..

Population for Birth rate, 4039. Birth rate, 22·03.

Deaths : 17 males, 18 females. Death rate, 8·6.
(See Table at end of Report).

The most noticeable feature is the great increase in the number of births—42 more than in 1919,—the number of deaths being two less than in 1919. The figures of the deaths for 1919 are shown for comparison in the Table.

Amount of Poor Law Relief.

£354 15s. 2d. In 1919, £429 4s. 11d.
Persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief, 54.
In 1919, 50.

Number of children vaccinated, 40.

The extent to which Hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilised :—

A. Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital.

Founded 1887. The present building was erected in 1897 as a memorial of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. It is managed by a committee elected by the subscribers. It contains seven beds. Eighty-eight patients were admitted in 1920, 16 of whom were resident in the Warblington Urban District. In addition, 11 cases of tonsils and adenoids from the district were operated on during the year—mostly children of school age.

The treatment is not entirely gratuitous, as patients are asked to contribute towards the expenses of the Hospital according to their means.

B. Emsworth Maternity Nurse and Child Welfare Association.

Founded in 1911 to supply working class mothers with the services of a trained midwife. In the year 1920, 68 cases were attended by the midwife—50 by the Nurse alone, 15 with the assistance of a doctor (who had been engaged by the patient before confinement), 3 miscarriages (one had already engaged the Nurse, the other two had already engaged a doctor).

No case of puerperal fever or ophthalmia occurred.

In September 1918 a Child Welfare and Infant Clinic was started. Meetings are held fortnightly and a short address given by a doctor during the meeting. The average attendance of mothers during 1920 (for 11 months) was 22.

Of the total income of the Association nearly two-thirds is paid in fees by the mothers themselves. The work of the Nurse and the Welfare Centre is steadily increasing in popularity and is doing an immense amount of good. One of the County Council Staff of Health Visitors attends every meeting, so that Home Visiting has become an essential part of the work.

C. Emsworth Nursing Association.

Founded in 1914. Present membership, 300. Members' subscriptions at a penny a week amount to £68 16s. 4d. out of a total income for the year of £144 6s. 3d. The number of visits paid by the Nurse was 5,017. It is affiliated to the Hampshire Nursing Association.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Water. For domestic purposes 939 houses are supplied by the Borough of Portsmouth Waterworks Company; the supply is constant and of excellent quality. In outlying houses and cottages the supply is from local wells.

Rivers and Streams. No pollution.

Drainage and Sewerage. In June, 1915, the Drainage Scheme was completed, and the outfall works placed in charge of a resident foreman. Up to the end of 1920, 544 connections—and addition of 43 since the end of 1919—had been made out of a possible 823. 123,000 gallons pass through the outfall in 24 hours. No nuisance has arisen from the works. The slow rate of making the connections is due to cost and difficulty in obtaining labour and materials, and the very heavy taxation on all classes at the present time.

Closet Accommodation. Privies with fixed receptacles, 89, of which 51 are in Emsworth. Privies with movable receptacles (pails), 7.

Scavenging. Two carts work daily. All the district is scavenged weekly, and portions twice weekly. Refuse all tipped at Hampshire Farm and buried. No destructor.

I have on more than one occasion suggested to the Council that in the poorer parts of Emsworth movable ashbins with proper covers should be provided by the sanitary authority. My advice

has not been accepted, and I again press this matter, as I feel certain it has a most important bearing on public health.

Sanitary Inspection. (See Table at the end of Report).

Premises, etc., controlled by Byelaws or Regulations.

- No common lodging houses.
- No underground sleeping rooms.
- 6 dairy farms.
- 2 milk shops.
- 4 old slaughter houses (2 for cattle only).

Factories and Workshops.

- 2 flour mills.
- 2 saw mills.
- 1 ship repairing yard.
- 1 steam laundry.
- 1 hand laundry.
- 1 motor garage.
- 1 harness maker.
- 4 bakehouses.

Prevalence and control over Infectious Disease.

During the year 51 certificates of notifiable diseases were received as follows—

January	12	...	July	
February	2	...	August	
March	5	...	September	
April	3	...	October	
May	1	...	November	
June	4	...	December	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	30	
Enteric „	...	...	1	
Diphtheria	...	...	10	
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	1	
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	...	...	6	
„ other	...	...	2	
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	1	

Scarlet Fever (30). Were all of a mild type and were removed to and treated at Havant Joint Isolation Hospital; 4 came from one family, 6 from three families, the remaining 20 were single cases. All recovered.

Diphtheria (10). 2 from one family, and 8 were single cases; all were removed to and treated at the Isolation Hospital. All recovered.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis (6).

Enteric (1) in a child of 3 years; recovered.

Diphtheria (10). All single cases.

Encephalitis Lethargica (1). Separate and special report sent to Ministry of Health.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. None.

Generally. The Medical Officer of Health holds a stock of Diphtheria Antitoxin, available for any practitioner who may require it; but the customary practice is for the doctor who requires the prompt removal and isolation of an infectious case to himself notify the Medical Officer in charge of the Isolation Hospital, who at once gives directions for the hospital ambulance to remove the patient. When received at the Hospital, the Matron notifies the Inspector of Nuisances, who has the room, etc., disinfected without delay.

There are two public elementary schools in the district. Cases of absence from communicable illness are notified by the masters in charge to the Medical Officer of Health. Practically all cases of tuberculosis are notified by practitioners.

Small Pox. None.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

(1) The midwife employed by the Emsworth Maternity and Child Welfare Association, which is affiliated to the Hampshire County Nursing Association, is inspected periodically by the Superintendent of the latter body, under the direction of

the Medical Officer to the County Council, which is the local supervising authority under the Midwives Acts. This midwife, who has been working in the district since 1911, has never received a correction.

(2) In the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Association, which meets fortnightly, a lecture is given every three months to expectant mothers by myself; the other fortnightly addresses being on the care of children. The Association is managed by a committee of ladies; some supervise the weighing of the babies, which is done at every meeting; some do likewise to the older children; some arrange to provide tea. The average attendance for the year was 23. The work is done in connection with the County Council scheme for Maternity and Child Welfare. One of the County Health Visitors usually attends every meeting.

Sanitary Administration.

1. *Staff.* One Inspector of Nuisances and three men working under him.

Cesspits in the district are emptied by Gates's pumping apparatus upon application to the Sanitary Inspector.

2. *Hospital Accommodation.* Havant Joint Hospital.

3. *Local Acts.* None.

4. *Bacteriological Work.* Done by County Medical Officer.

Weather Report

The following Weather Report for the year was kindly supplied by the Rev. L. B. Birkett, of Westbourne:—Rainfall, 28·91 inches; heaviest fall 1·08 on July 5th; rain fell on 183 days (average 180); below average, 2·38. Maximum Tempera-

ture, 78 on May 29th and June 2nd ; Minimum Temperature, 20 on Jan. 7th and 8th ; Minimum on grass, 16 on Jan. 7th ; Frosty nights, 40 (average 74) ; Mean Temperature, 50·2 ; above average, 1·6 ; Maximum barometer, 30·710 on March 3rd ; Minimum barometer, 28·842 on March 15th.

Yours faithfully,

L. E. W. STEPHENS,
Medical Officer of Health.

Progress of Housing Scheme.

Since making the Survey of Housing Needs in October, 1919, the Council decided to erect 26 Working-class Dwellings on a site west of Victoria Road, Emsworth. Plans, specifications, and estimates were prepared to the requirements of the Ministry of Health, and tenders obtained in June, 1920, for the whole of the 26 houses to be erected, viz., 16 Parlour type and 10 Non-Parlour type houses.

Of the above, tenders were accepted for only 16 Parlour and 2 Non-Parlour type houses when submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval, the remaining eight houses being too high in price.

Contracts for the 18 houses approved were signed by the builders on December 16th, 1920, and work will be commenced in the new year.

**Causes of Death in the Warblington Urban
District, 1920.**

Causes of Death	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES (Civilians only) ...	17	18
Whooping cough ...	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	—	2
Other tuberculous diseases ...	—	1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	1	4
Organic heart disease ...	2	1
Bronchitis ...	3	1
Appendicitis and typhlitis ...	1	—
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	2	—
Congenital debility, &c. ...	1	—
Other defined diseases ...	7	8
.....		
Special Causes (included above)—		
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	—
.....		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		
Total	1	2
Illegitimate ...	—	—
.....		
TOTAL BIRTHS ...	41	49
.....		
Legitimate ...	39	49
Illegitimate ...	2	—

Population (for Births and Deaths), 4039

No deaths from any of the following diseases and conditions -

Enteric fever, Small pox, Measles, Scarlet fever, Diphtheria, Influenza, Rheumatic Fever, Pneumonia, Diarrhoea and Enteritis, Alcoholism, Puerperal Fever, Violent Deaths, Suicide.

**Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector
of Nuisances' Department in the year 1920.**

	NUMBER OF		ABATEMENT NOTICES		NUISANCES ABATED AFTER NOTICE BY		Remaining unabated
	Inspections and Observa- tions made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority	
Dwelling Houses and Schools—							
Foul Conditions ...	2	2	2	...	...	...	...
Structural Defects ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cowsheds ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bakehouses ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Slaughter-houses ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ashpits and Privies ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...
House Drainage—							
Faults ...	37	37	...	...	36	...	1
Animals improperly kept ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	64	39	3	...	37	...	1